
The EDI Wave

Volume 1 Issue 3

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Riding the Wave



Trading Partner Stats

Seven of our eight pilot Trading Partners (TP) are receiving Delivery Orders (DOs) via EDI. These are EETCO (Feb. 1997), Applied Technology, Inc. and Laidlaw Environmental Services (Aug 19, 1997), Moheat and CSI (Sept 22, 1997), Philip Environmental National Services (Dec 17, 1997), and American Environmental Services (Mar 1998). The other partner is Chem-Met and they have yet to begin testing.

The seven TPs in production account for approximately 56 percent of our hazardous waste business (based on contract dollars). From March 1, 1998 through May 29, 1998, we issued 944 Delivery Orders via EDI. A breakout is as follows: Laidlaw - 381; Philip - 268; AES - 106; ATI - 103; Moheat - 41; CSI - 29; and EETCO - 16.

EDI Delivery Order Modifications

When will we get EDI Delivery Order Modifications? That is a question I have heard from all of our TPs. I went to Ms. Sherri Underwood, DRMS-CM, and she was kind enough to provide an answer for this issue of The EDI Wave. Here is her response.

Sorry folks, there is no quick and easy answer to this question! Many of you are already aware we are rehosting our hazardous waste post-award contracting automated information system (AIS). You are probably asking yourself, "What does that mean and how does it apply to modifications?" The current system operates on a mainframe computer with primarily COBOL programs and has slightly antiquated architecture. This combination means system changes are more difficult to implement and the system is less than user friendly. Although today's system may meet many of our basic operational needs, it can not adequately support our vision for the future.

The conversion is very important to implementing our future requirements and it meets the Year 2000 Compliant requirements. BOSS Hazardous is being transitioned to an Oracle, Client/Server environment. The benefits of this change include:

- The system will operate on a mid-tier computer system rather than a mainframe (lower our processing and administration costs).
- It will be easier and faster to make required system changes.
- The system will be Windows compliant, making it more user friendly.
- The use of Oracle, Client/Server technology will support our standard architecture and allow the BOSS to easily interface with our other AIS.

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Unfortunately, this initiative impacts our EDI project to bring our contractors electronic Delivery Order Modifications. Our programmers are focusing solely on programming the system changes to move BOSS into the new environment by October 1998. Until the application is rehosted, no additional changes are being allowed.

“Okay, so what is the estimated timeframe for testing the Modifications?” We would like to give you a firm date for when testing will begin, unfortunately we cannot. However, we can make a few assumptions about the situation. Upon implementation of the new system, there will be a period of transition, training and adjustment for end users. Our staff is making every effort to test the system and correct any errors, but it would be unrealistic to assume that it will be perfect. The system will likely require a few changes or corrections after deployment. When we implement the new system, we will be in a better position to give you a firm date for when you can expect electronic modifications. Thank you for being patient and we will keep you posted as the status changes.

DoDAAC

In April 1998, we sent our TPs an Internet address to the DoD Activity Address Directory. With this directory, the TP can enter a DoDAAC and retrieve the associated address (the same address that is printed out on the hardcopy Delivery Order (DD Form 1155). Once we go paperless, the TP will use this directory to get the pick up address. The directory is easily accessible and easy to use. The address is: <http://www.daas.dla.mil/dodaad.html>

Hazardous Waste Symposium

DRMS is hosting the 1998 Hazardous Waste Disposal Contracting Symposium. The event will be held July 14-15, 1998 in the Palm Garden Room of the Federal Center, 74 Washington Avenue North, Battle Creek, Michigan. There is no charge for registration or admittance to this event. The symposium is devoted to a variety of topics relating to disposal of hazardous items. For more information, please go to: <http://www.drms.dla.mil/newproc/html/symposium.html>.

EDI User s Guide

We have recently completed our DRMS Hazardous Waste Disposal EDI User's Guide. A copy will be sent to our current TPs and others can request a copy by contacting a POC listed below. We developed the guide in order to assist you, the contractor, in making decisions regarding EDI implementation and to enhance your understanding of the EDI process as it relates to doing business with DRMS.

Communicate

DRMS is interested in receiving your opinion and input. Please submit your questions, concerns or ideas to one of the POCs listed below. DRMS is here to work with the Trading Partners so that all can “Ride the Wave”. Direct questions will be answered to the interested party. Issues that affect all will be addressed in the next issue of the EDI Wave. Hope to hear from you. Let's keep the lines of communication open.

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